

[HOUSE BILL, No. 176.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—November 8, 1864.—Read first and second times, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

[By Mr. MILES.]

A BILL

To be entitled An Act to authorize the consolidation of companies, battalions and regiments.

1 *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do enact, That*
2 whenever any companies, battalions or regiments in service shall
3 have been so far reduced in numbers as to make it necessary, in the
4 opinion of the general commanding the department, or the separate
5 army in the field, in which such companies, battalions or regiments
6 are serving, to consolidate them, the said general, with the approval
7 of the Secretary of War, is hereby authorised to consolidate
8 them, under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of War
9 may prescribe: *Provided*, That no such consolidation shall be
10 made until it shall clearly appear to the satisfaction of the Secretary
11 of War that such companies, battalions and regiments
12 cannot be sufficiently recruited within a reasonable time by the
13 assignment of conscripts or otherwise; *And provided, further*,
14 That only troops from the same State shall be consolidated together.
15

1 SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That whenever the consolidation
 2 of companies, battalions and regiments shall have been deter-
 3 mined upon, in accordance with the provisions of the preceding
 4 section, the general commanding the department, or the separate
 5 army in which such reduced organizations are serving, shall cause
 6 boards of examination to be held in the same manner as they are
 7 now held, for examining into the fitness of officers for promotion,
 8 which boards shall proceed to enquire into the relative qualifica-
 9 tions, claims and fitness of all the officers of the several organi-
 10 zations which it is proposed to consolidate together, and shall se-
 11 lect such officers for the command of the new organizations, re-
 12 sulting from the consolidation of the old, as may seem to them
 13 most fit for such commands, which officers shall forthwith assume
 14 the respective commands to which they may be assigned by the
 15 general commanding the department or separate army to which
 16 they belong, subject to the subsequent approval of the President :
 17 *Provided*, That the relative rank of the officers so assigned shall
 18 not be disturbed : *And provided further*, That the officers of the
 19 old organizations, over and above the number requisite for the
 20 new, shall be entitled to retain their rank and commissions, if
 21 pronounced worthy and competent by the examining boards
 22 above provided, (said judgments to be approved by the general
 23 and Secretary of War), and may be assigned to such appropriate
 24 duties as the Secretary of War may prescribe.